



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

4681

Southwest District Office

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Bob Taft, Governor
Maureen O'Connor, Lt. Governor
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January 9, 2003

Mr. Johnny Reising
U.S. Department of Energy, Fernald Area Office
P.O. Box 538705
Cincinnati, OH 45253-8705

Re: Radon Control System

Dear Mr. Reising:

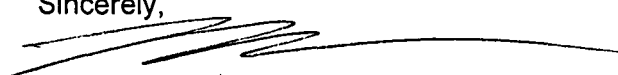
Ohio EPA was pleased to see DOE start up and temporarily run the Radon Control System on December 6 and 7. However based upon our recent conference calls, we are concerned with the apparent lack of a plan for testing the RCS during the "Hot Test Phase." Ohio EPA was under the impression that DOE would be using the time following initial startup to conduct a series of testing and training runs to ensure the facility and operators were prepared to operate continuously in support of AWR transfer facility construction and material transfer.

Ohio EPA clearly expects DOE to have properly tested the facility and trained the operators prior to initiating continuous operation. Such testing should include long periods of sustained operation at expected operating capacity ranges. Additionally, it should be clear to DOE that the agencies expect the system to be operating on a continuous basis prior to and following breaching the silo domes or removing the foam covered caps from the silos.

In order to ensure DOE completes RCS operations testing in time for continuous operation to support RCS construction activities, DOE should develop and submit a schedule and plan for testing of the RCS. Considering DOE hopes to conduct construction activities on and around the silo domes in early 2003, the agencies would expect this schedule and plan will be completed in the very near future.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (937) 285-6466.

Sincerely,


Thomas A. Schneider
Fernald Project Manager
Office of Federal Facilities Oversight

cc: Jim Saric, U.S. EPA
Terry Hagen, FDF
Mark Shupe, HSI GeoTrans
Mary Cullerton, Tetra Tech Inc.
Ruth Vandergrift, ODH

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